

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: ROMANIAN MEDIA HANDLING OF CEAUSESCU  
VISIT TO U.S.

1. THREE DAYS BEFORE PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S SCHEDULED DEPARTURE FOR US. ROMANIAN PRESS HAS YET TO PUBLISH SIGNIFICANT ARTICLE ON VISIT OR US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS. NOVEMBER 30 SCINTEIA TEXT OF CEAUSESCU'S RECENT PLENUM SPEECH, CONTAINS SHORT PARAGRAPH ON US TUCKED BETWEEN PARJY ON INDIA AND VIET-NAM. IN ONLY SIGNIFICANT SENTENCE CEAUSESCU IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "WOITHOUT DOUBT, THIS VISIT LIKE THER OTHER MEETINGS WITH THE US PRESIDENT, WILL CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES, TO THE STRENGTHENING OF US-ROMANIAN COLLABORATION IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES, AND WILL EXERT A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, CONTRIBUTING TO THE POLICY OF DETENTE, OF PLACING INTERSTATE RELATIONS ON A NEW BASIS, AND TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE." SIMILAR ANODYNE SENTENCE APPEARED IN CEAUSESCU'S INTERVIEW WITH GREEK JOURNALIST NOVEMBER 18.

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2. NO INTERVIEW WITH US JOURNALIST HAS BEEN PUBLISHED

SO FAR (SUCH INTERVIEWS ARE NORMAL BEFORE CEAUSESCU VISITS ABROAD), ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT LOCAL AP CORRESPONDENT LUDINGTON TURNED DOWN PROFFERED INTERVIEW THIS WEEK WHEN ROMANIANS TRIED TO PUT CONDITIONS ON IT WHICH HE CONSIDERED UNACCEPTABLE. CURRENT INSSUE OF LUMEA, FOREIGN AFFAIRS WEEKLY, WHICH NORMALLY PUBLISHES FEATURE ON EACH FOREIGN COUNTRY CEAUSESCU VISITS, CARRIES ONLY ARTICLES ON CAPE CANAVERAL AND PARTY FIVE ON ON-GOING SERICAL ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION, BUT NOTHING ON VISIT OR US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS. NICOLAE LUPU, FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOURNALIST, ACKNOWLEDGED BUT DISCOUNTED RELATIVE LACK OF PRESS PLAY SO FAR, CLAIMING IT WOULD PICK UP STEAM LATER.

3. COMMENT: IT IS OF COURSE ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THERE WILL BESOME MEDIA PLAY ON VISIT BEFORE CEAUSESCU DEPARTS. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE STRUCK, AS ARE ROMANIAN AND LOCAL DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS, BY THE LOW-KEY TREATMENT WHICH TRIP HAS BEEN RECEIVING SO FAR. SPECULATION HERE AS TO REASONS FOR THIS PHENOMONON CENTERS ON (1) AVOIDING POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET REACTION OF VISIT OVER BALLY-HOOED, (2) REALIZATION THAT TIMING OF TRIP MAY BE LESS THAN IDEAL FROM POINT OF VIEW OF US DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, (3) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT TRIP WILL NOT PRODUCE SPECTACULAR RESULTS AND DESIRE TO AVOID RAISING FALSE HOPES FOR IT, AND (4) RUMORED SKEPTICISM BY SOME PARTY OFFICIALS TOWARD VISIT AT THIS TIME WHEN IMPORTANT CONCRETE RESULTS UNLIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING. WHATEVER VALIDITY THIS SPECULATION MAY HAVE, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT PRE-DEPARTURE ATMOSPHERE, SO FAR AT LEAST, IS ONE OF CAUTION RATHER THAN EBULLIENCE.  
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